

**DDS-South Region
Regional Advisory and Planning Council
Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2012**

Members Present: Chair Diane Martin, April Dipollina, Susan Gardner, Lauralyn Lewis, Lori Richardson, and Shannon O'Brien, Interim Regional Director, DDS South Region.

Members Absent: Carol Cooney, Michael Del Sole, and Danielle Sheppard.

Guests: Carol Grabbe, Self-Advocate Coordinator; Genna Lewis, Self-Advocate Coordinator; Betty Zoubek, Health Services Director; and Jack Frost, Parent/Statewide Council Member.

Chairperson's Report

- **Call to Order** – Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.
- **Introductions** – All made Introductions.
- **Citizen Comment** – Mr. Frost said he is looking forward to meeting incoming Regional Director, Thomas Dailey, and that he was happy to be attending this evening's meeting.
- **Review of Minutes** - A review of the January 25, 2012, meeting minutes ensued. In the presence of a quorum and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Council voted to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2012 meeting, as presented.

Regional Director's Report

- **DDS Employee Update** – Ms. O'Brien announced that Commissioner Macy has appointed Thomas Dailey to the position of Regional Director for the South Region of DDS, effective April 6, 2012. Both she and Mr. Dailey will be tying up loose ends related to their interim assignments over the coming weeks. Commissioner Macy has also recently appointed Jordan Scheff, Executive Director of MARCH, Inc. of Manchester, to the position of Regional Director for the North Region of DDS.

Due to the upcoming retirement of Scott Wolfe, Assistant Regional director for the Public Administration division, and Thomas Dailey's appointment to Regional Director, who formerly served as Assistant Regional Director for the Private Administration division, the South Region has two key vacancies. Both positions have been posted nationally. The region will move to fill both vacancies as soon as possible.

- **PCA** – Ms. O'Brien distributed an article entitled *Controversial Unionization Bills Fail to Clear Committee*. The article relates to two controversial proposals to extend collective bargaining rights to daycare and personal care workers. The proposals came because of Governor Malloy's Executive Order #10, which allows both groups to form unions that could represent them in nonbonding discussions with the state, but did not extend collective bargaining rights to them. Ms. O'Brien will ask Mr. Dailey to provide status updates on this issue going forward.
- **Summer Workers** – Ms. O'Brien will be meeting with Commissioner Macy to discuss summer worker positions in the hopes of increasing respite center operation to 7 days a week during the summer and hiring summer workers for Camp Harkness.

Ms. Grabbe asked if consumers could be considered for summer worker positions. Ms. O'Brien will raise the issue at the next meeting of the Camp Harkness Advisory Council.

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- **Budget Reduction** - The South Region is reviewing its clinical contracts to determine where cuts can be made to address budget reductions. As consumers move into the community, they will be directed toward community resources. Discussion ensued on the inherent challenges of finding community providers, particularly psychiatrists.
- **Residential Rate Setting Planning Committee** – DDS is seeking volunteers to serve on the Residential Rate Setting Planning Committee. Anyone interested in participating should contact the Regional Director's Office at 203-294-5053 within the next month or so. Ms. O'Brien noted that she and Carol Grabbe, along with other DDS staff and providers from all three regions are sitting members. An outcrop of various sub-groups is expected in order to address the varying components of the transition to unified residential rates. The transition will occur over a period of 7.5 years. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMMS) requires unified rates for states participating in the waiver.
- **Recreational Staff** – Recently some council members received a letter from Pam Okerblom, Rehab Therapist II, of the Individual and Family support Division out of the Norwich Office. The intent of the letter was to introduce her and inform families of her plans to promote and connect families to recreational opportunities. Discussion ensued on why not all council members received Ms. Okerblom's letter. Ms. O'Brien stated that since Ms. Okerblom is assigned to the Norwich office, her outreach would typically be to eastern area families. Ms. O'Brien offered to determine the activities of her Wallingford counterpart and report back. It was noted that historically the eastern part of the region has offered more recreational opportunities. A suggestion was made to post region wide recreational opportunities in one place on the DDS website.

Old Business

- **Membership** - Mr. Jeff DePina is interested in joining the Council. The Council agreed that Mr. DePina would be a great addition to the group. On behalf of the Council, the Regional Director's office will recommend Mr. DePina's appointment to this Council to Commissioner Macy.
- **Creative Housing Forums Update** – A core group of staff and Council members are moving forward on the Council's goal to hold a series of forums on creative housing options. There will be a 2-part series, the first of which will be held in April. The forums will be advertised through the FSN list serve, the DDS website, and case managers. A Save the Date flyer has already gone out. Presentations to include an overview of DDS today, information on creative housing options, parent involvement, family panelists, and how a community in one state made it happen. Member Dipollina shared her hope for the creation of a sustainable parent workgroup on housing.

New Business

- **PRC Presentation** – Betty Zoubek, DDS South Region Director of Health Services, presented an overview of the Programmatic Review Committee (PRC) process, which was developed 20 years ago because of the Mansfield Training School decent degree to insure individuals are not on behavior modifying medications unnecessarily. Prior to the PRC process, there were no protocols, monitoring, or policies and procedures related to the use of behavior modifying medications. In an effort to improve the review process, which is lengthy, tedious, and time

consuming for both staff and providers alike, a streamlined process is being piloted in the South Region.

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- **Self-Advocate Presentation** - Carol Grabbe and Genna Lewis, DDS South Region Self-Advocate Coordinators, presented an overview of their job responsibilities, goals, and initiatives. On any given workday, Carol and Genna can be found attending speaking engagements, leading self-advocacy groups, conducting trainings, participating on agency-wide committees, working on legislative initiatives, and promoting employment and real work for real pay.
- **Viewing of Employment Idol DVD** – Due to time constraints, this item was deferred to the next meeting.
- **Next Meeting Date** - The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DDS South Region Advisory and Planning Council is May 16, 2012, at 6:00 p.m., at the Henry Carter Hull Library in Clinton.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes Recorded by:
Jolie Crescimano-Goss
Executive Secretary, DDS-SR

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